

SOCIAL RELATIONS : LOVE AND HATE IN ACTION

A. PRIMARY EGOCENTRIC ATTITUDES IN SOCIAL PLAY

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£ This type of behaviour includes a variety of instances, having a certain broad character in common. The child implicitly expects other people's behaviour to fall into the pattern of his own phantasies, and when it does not, he attempts to enforce his will upon them.) The instances given in chronological order below could be grouped into a series of progressive psychological situations :'

< a. An arbitrary fixing of another person's part in the play, with a minimum regard either to the other person's wishes or to external realities. This represents, of course, the typical play of children between two to four years of age? and could have been multiplied here indefinitely. xEvery reader will be able to supply unlimited instances.

C b. Claiming leadership or assigning inferior parts to others.

c. Refusing to reverse superior and inferior parts.

d. Egocentric threats, bribes and appeals, to maintain leadership, or to get one's own way. *>

14.11.24. Christopher asked for the "shopping"; he made a "bed" in his shop and went to sleep. Mrs. I. was supposed to go to the shop, wait for some time, and waken him by knocking.

30.1.25. Frank made everyone go to sleep on the rug, while he went as Father Christmas and took them presents.

Dan and Frank had the box motor car again. Frank was sitting in the front; Dan said he also wanted to sit in the front. Frank said, " Oh no, two can't sit in the front; you must sit in the back."

10.2.25. Dan and Frank moved all the tables and chairs to one side of the room and ran round the empty floor; Frank took the lead and asked Dan and Mrs. I. to "hook on". He ran in a spiral, saying, " First we will have a big ring, and then it will get smaller and smaller and smaller."

Frank and Dan played shop, Mrs. I. was asked to buy from the shop. Then Dan said to Frank, " Shall we make a shop house ? " He hid under the table, and Mrs. I. had to knock at the door when he said, " Come in, Sir/¹
12.2.25. Frank constructed a "Christmas Tree", with presents piled all around. While he did this, Dan and Mrs. I. had to close their eyes, and then presently they opened their eyes while he took them presents, bundled up in rugs as " in